

Time Signatures

4

TOP NUMBER = BEATS PER MEASURE

4

BOTTOM NUMBER = KIND OF NOTE
THAT GETS ONE BEAT

About the bottom number

Imagine the bottom number is pulled away and made into a fraction by adding a "1" above it, like this . . .

1

—

"ONE FOURTH" – The quarter note gets one beat.

4

1

—

"ONE HALF" – The HALF note gets one beat.

2

1

—

"ONE EIGHTH" – The eighth note gets one beat.

8

Examples of time signatures you will see . . .

4 2 3 2 3 12

Beats per measure

4 4 4 2 8 8

Kind of note
that gets one
beat